VISION AND PLAN FOR INDIANA HOME TOWN COMPETITIVENESS (HTC) PROGRAM
July 17, 2007 Informational Seminar

1. What are the key concepts/parameters of the Indiana-HTC Program/Vision?

    a. Customizes the nationally recognized HTC program for Indiana's needs and individual communities
    b. Indiana-HTC is innovative, focusing on both community and economic development
    c. Begins as a pilot effort with pilot communities
    d. Establishes a Resource Team to work with the pilot communities
    e. Collaborative efforts are paramount: among resource providers; and between Resource Team and pilot communities
    f. Deliberate effort at this stage NOT to cast everything in stone
    g. Indiana-HTC is NOT a grant program
    h. Indiana-HTC builds upon and is consistent with RISE 2020

2. Who is included in the Statewide Resource Team?

    a. USDA Rural Development
    b. Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs (OCRA)
    c. Indiana Grantmakers Alliance
    d. Indiana Rural Development Council (IRDC)
    e. Ball State University's *Building Better Communities Program*
    f. Purdue University's Center for Regional Development and Cooperative Extension

3. What are the key steps in moving the Indiana-HTC Program forward?

    a. Today's Informational Seminar
    b. Interested communities request a Pilot Community Application (use request form in today's packet)
    c. Pilot Community Applications mailed to interested communities by Sept. 1
    d. Pilot Community Applications completed and returned to OCRA by Oct. 1
    e. October-December—Review of applications by Resource Team, including site visits to a limited number of communities
    f. January, 2008—"Community Teams" from 6-12 communities are invited to participate in an Indiana-HTC Academy
    g. February, 2008—3-day Indiana-HTC Academy (specific dates and Indiana location to be determined)
    h. Immediately following Academy: final determination of pilot communities

4. What are the key steps for the pilot communities?

a. Phase I: Assessment. This phase includes a series of assessment activities that will take the pilot communities up to four months to complete. The following outcomes are typically realized through Phase I: (a) an exploration of the HTC framework and how it could fit the local situation; (b) preliminary assessment of development history, context, issues and assets and (c) identification of possible strategies available to the community to strengthen its development game plan.

b. Phase II: Strategy Development and Implementation. Most communities will want to pursue Phase II if Phase I proved successful. Phase II typically runs 12-18 months and requires a larger mobilization of community effort that may include the identification of a local "site leader", an overall Steering Committee and four Task Forces (Entrepreneurship, Leadership, Youth Engagement and Charitable Assets). At the end of Phase II the following outcomes are likely: (a) a larger, more sophisticated and effective development game plan; (b) increased development capacity in the community necessary for sustaining a larger development effort; and (c) initial implementation of strategies.

c. Phase III: Sustaining Success. Phase III moves all of the various strategies created in Phase II into action.

5. How is the Pilot Community Application structured?

a. A brief 2-3 page application where interested communities will be asked to respond to a series of questions about their community's level of interest and readiness for the Indiana - HTC program.

b. This application is not the usual "RFP" or grant type of application. *The application is designed to help start a conversation between your community and the statewide Resource Team.* Therefore, the level of effort and detail needed to complete the application is less than what is needed to complete a "RFP" or traditional grant application.

c. The result of this conversation (application) will be the opportunity to be considered for selection as a pilot Indiana-HTC community.

d. Pilot communities will have access to assistance and support from the statewide Resource Team.

6. ***To learn more we invite you to stay for the rest of today's information seminar.*** *We ask that you hold your specific questions and suggestions about the five items noted here until the 3:30 pm session. We think this approach will enrich that portion of today's program and will use our time most effectively.*